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Florence County

Lost in the Beauty of Spring

The Bradfords, forsythia, quince, daffodils, flowering cherries, crabapples, spirea, and etc. etc. etc., I just get lost in spring. Hold everything, today is the last day of the Spring Plant & Flower Festival at the Pee Dee State Farmers Market. Hurry out and you might just find some of those last day specials. Open from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., you still have plenty of time to buy that perfect plant for your lawn or garden. With free admission and parking, it is the perfect Sunday evening family- outing.

We buy a lot of plants in S.C. In fact we have made ornamental plants the second largest cash crop in the state. However, selecting the right plant is not as easy as it may seem. First of all, know the environmental conditions of the spot where you are going to plant your new found treasure. Is the spot sunny, shady, dry, wet, irrigated, sandy, etc. Next, if you are unfamiliar with the plant, you need to ask the basic questions of when, where, and how will the plant grow. Ask will the mature plant be tall, short, broad, disease prone, insect prone, drought tolerate, and etc. The combination of these steps will help you complete a gardening basic, "Putting the right plant in the right place". If you have unanswered questions, the Florence County Master Gardeners have a booth in the center of the shed. We will be there to answer all your plant questions and allow you to sign-up for this winters Master Gardener Class. If possible bring us a sample of your problem, to make answering your question easier.

To learn the specifics on gardening we have both free and for-sale publications at our office in the back of the Public Services Building on the corner of Third Loop and Irby. You may also visit our Home & Garden Information Center through our web site at www.clemson.edu/florence. I may be contacted through our web site, amelton@clemson.edu or 661-4800.

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